

The House Committee on Higher Education offers the following substitute to HB 920:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Code Section 20-2-157 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the uniform reporting system for high school grades for purposes of determining eligibility for enrollment and scholarships for postsecondary education, so as to provide that certain scores on end-of-course assessments will result in additional credit for purposes of determining eligibility for HOPE scholarships; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 20-2-157 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the uniform reporting system for high school grades for purposes of determining eligibility for enrollment and scholarships for postsecondary education, is amended by revising subsection (b) as follows:

"(b) Beginning May 1, 2007, each school system and private school shall adopt the reporting system described in this subsection for purposes of identifying and qualifying graduating seniors for the HOPE scholarship program and other programs identified in this Code section:

(1) Each school system and private school shall transmit, in a manner and at times prescribed by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, an electronic transcript of courses and course grades for each graduating senior that reflects the complete high school academic record of the student, including scores on any state tests required for graduation and all end-of-course assessments, whether or not required for graduation, the grading scales used by the school system or private school for the time periods referenced by the transcripts, and any other pertinent information as determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission. Each grade reported by a school system or private school to the commission for the purpose of calculating the grade point average for HOPE

1 scholarship eligibility shall be the actual grade earned by the student, with no weighting
2 or addition of points by the local school system or private school;

3 (2) The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall calculate a grade point average for
4 the purpose of determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship from these electronic
5 transcripts and shall notify students of their eligibility and high schools as to the
6 eligibility of students;

7 (3) For students otherwise qualified and enrolling as freshmen students in eligible public
8 or private postsecondary institutions for the first time on May 1, 2007, or thereafter, the
9 Georgia Student Finance Commission shall calculate grade point averages for
10 determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship and other scholarships referenced in this
11 Code section as follows:

12 (A) For students receiving a college preparatory diploma, each grade for a student in
13 attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign
14 language that would, if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement
15 for the college preparatory curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such
16 that a grade of 'A' = 4.0, a grade of 'B' = 3.0, a grade of 'C' = 2.0, a grade of 'D' = 1.0,
17 and a grade of 'F' = 0; or

18 (B) For students receiving a career/technical diploma, each grade for a student in
19 attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, and social studies that would,
20 if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement for the career/technical
21 curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such that a grade of 'A' = 4.0, a
22 grade of 'B' = 3.0, a grade of 'C' = 2.0, a grade of 'D' = 1.0, and a grade of 'F' = 0.

23 Grades for coursework that is classified as advanced placement or international
24 baccalaureate shall be weighted by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in
25 calculating the overall grade point averages for students, provided that the weighting of
26 such course grades is uniformly applied to all students in the state taking the specified
27 coursework. Beginning with end-of-course assessments administered on and after May
28 1, 2009, a student who receives a score on an end-of-course assessment which is deemed
29 by the State Board of Education as 'exceeds expectations' shall receive an additional 0.25
30 point for each such assessment on which he or she receives such designation. The sum
31 of the equated grades and the additional end-of-course assessment points shall be divided
32 by the number of course grades, adjusted for term length, to yield a grade point average
33 on a 4.0 scale. As used in this subsection, the term 'end-of-course assessment' means the
34 end-of-course assessment administered pursuant to Code Section 20-2-281. Such
35 end-of-course assessments shall be made available by the State Board of Education to
36 students in home study programs and private schools meeting the requirements of Code
37 Section 20-2-690 at the expense of such students;

1 (4) Qualification for the HOPE scholarship shall be determined from the grade point
2 average calculated as set out in paragraph (3) of this subsection. Beginning May 1, 2007,
3 students with grade point averages equal to or in excess of 3.0 on the 4.0 scale with a
4 college preparatory diploma shall meet achievement standards for the HOPE scholarship;
5 students receiving a career/technical diploma shall meet achievement standards for the
6 HOPE scholarship with a grade point average equal to or in excess of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale.
7 This paragraph shall apply regardless of when a student graduated from high school and
8 regardless of such student's eligibility status prior to May 1, 2007; and
9 (5) Beginning May 1, 2007, only the reporting system as indicated in this subsection
10 shall be used to determine eligibility for all grants, scholarships, or loans to attend
11 colleges or universities which are administered pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 3 of this
12 title and eligibility for enrollment in postsecondary courses pursuant to Code Section
13 20-2-161.1."

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.